

REMARKS

The Notice stated that “[t]he changes in amended claims 20 and 53 must be shown by underlining (for added matter).” Notice at 2. In response, the Applicant has annotated claims 20 and 53 to more clearly indicate the added matter. Furthermore, although the Notice did not require it, the Applicant has provided annotations to the amendments to the specification at page 1, lines 14-19, and page 1, lines 21-23 to more clearly point out the stricken and added material.

The Notice further stated:

Applicants note the added limitations of claims 14 and 17 in claim 20 and/or the added limitations of claims 47 and 50 in claim 53 may not make claim 20 and/or claim 53 patentable (see the last Office Action) since claims 14-19 and 47-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), wherein claim 20 depends upon claim 19 which depends upon claim 18 which depends upon claim 17 which depends upon claim 16 which depends upon claim 15 which depends upon claim 14 and claim 53 depends upon claim 52 which depends upon claim 51 which depends upon claim 51 which depends upon claim 50 which depends upon claim 49 which depends upon claim 48 which depends upon claim 47.

Notice at 2. The Applicant does not believe that it has noted the above or made such a statement. Furthermore, the Applicant has been unable to discern from the statement what action the Office would like it to take. The Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendment, and submits that the Application is in condition for allowance. If, however, the Office seeks a particular action on the part of the Applicant, the Applicant respectfully requests a more clear and detailed description of the asserted non-compliance to better assist the Applicant to prepare a response.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in allowable condition. Consequently, favorable reconsideration and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. No fee is believed to be due. Should any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, however, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/SILA:073.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



MAXIMILIAN R. PETERSON
Registration No. 46,469
Attorney for Applicant

O'KEEFE, EGAN & PETERMAN, L.L.P.
1101 Capital of Texas Highway South
Building C, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746
Voice: (512) 347-1611
Fax: (512) 347-1615